

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

REMEMBERING THE REV. DR. MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR.

Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, today I wish to celebrate the life and legacy of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., whose birthday the Nation celebrated yesterday. Dr. King once said: "The ultimate measure of a man is not where he stands in moments of comfort and convenience, but where he stands at times of challenge and controversy." These words are a specter, speaking to us now as though written for political moments precisely like the one we find ourselves in today. These words reflect the wisdom and tenacity of a man who deftly shaped his own moment and made our country better, fairer, and more just in the process.

Dr. King was a remarkable figure, perhaps most of all because he was an ordinary man—a husband and a father like so many others—who made extraordinary choices. In the face of a society that told him he must sit down, he chose to take a stand. In the face of evil and systemic bigotry, he chose to embody the tenets of love and peace. In the face of improbable odds, he chose to fight. As a result, his legacy of tolerance, respect, and equality is forever cemented in the very foundation of this country, and we are all the better for it.

Right up until the moment his life was taken from him, 50 years ago this year, Dr. King fought for an equal society, an equitable society, wherein we would judge one another not by the color of each other's skin, but by the content of our character. He was a shining beacon for all those who had come before him and all those who would come after, who, at tremendous risk to their own lives and livelihoods, have fought ceaselessly in the name of civil rights, fair wages, the eradication of poverty, and the right of all Americans to vote.

His wisdom still guides us even now, so many decades removed from his time here. When, in the 2013 case *Shelby County v. Holder*, the Supreme Court dismantled the Voting Rights Act that Dr. King was instrumental in passing, many of us vowed to persevere, to pass new legislation, knowing that is what Dr. King would have expected and would have done himself. Discriminatory practices such as voter identification requirements have made a resurgence in recent years, making it more difficult for citizens to exercise their most basic, fundamental right. Bigoted, hateful rhetoric has sadly continued into our lifetime, threatening the livelihoods and the dignity of people of color all across America. Misunderstanding of those from other countries or backgrounds all too often guides our politics, and fringe groups are all too often successful in stoking that fear into hate.

Despite all of this, I am optimistic about our future because, as Dr. King

put it best, "The arc of the moral universe is long, but it bends toward justice." That is the other half of Dr. King's legacy: hope—pure, undiluted, undeterred. We have tremendous challenges before us, just as he did then. I am hopeful when I watch Dreamers march on the U.S. Capitol, asking us to live up to our own promise as a nation. I am hopeful when I see women of all races, creeds, orientations, and backgrounds rally together as one, demanding to be heard, to be believed, to be counted. I am hopeful when I watch Black Lives Matter organize incredible, peaceful protests, keeping us all accountable, and I am hopeful when I see Americans of all different stripes join them.

Today both Dr. King's message and methods are as relevant as ever. He lives on in the footfall of peacefully marching protesters and in every word spoken in opposition to inequality and injustice. He lives on in the diversity of our college campuses and the all-too-slow, but steady, representation of people of color in our government. He lives on in all the ordinary men and women of this country who, every day, make extraordinary choices, like meeting hate with love, and the darkness of our troubled times with the light of their own hope.

Even in difficult times, through violence and denial, Dr. King maintained his dream, and as he said in the last sermon he gave in Tennessee, through every plight, he saw the Promised Land upon that great mountaintop. As we come together to celebrate his birthday, let us pledge to follow his footsteps up that mountain, to carry on his dream, until we meet him there.

REMEMBERING JOSEPH WILLIAM NOVOTNY

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the remarks I gave at the medal presentation to Joseph William Novotny's family on January 13, 2018, in Glendive, MT.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

U.S. Senator Jon Tester
Joseph William Novotny Medal Presentation
January 13, 2018
Glendive, Montana

Thank you all for being here today. And a special welcome to Emma Bartholomew, Kathy Hegel and all of Joe's family.

Today is a day years in the making. The efforts to get Joe the recognition and military medal he deserves has spanned years and generations of his family.

One of my greatest honors in the U.S. Senate is recognizing the service of the brave men and women who serve our country. Men like Joe who don't often seek recognition for their bravery.

It's my honor to be here today to present Ms. Bartholomew with her brother's medal. I will now read the citation that was printed in the United States Congressional Record, forever commemorating Joe's actions and the long overdue medal that now belongs to his family.

CONGRESSIONAL RECORD

Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the service and courage of Mr. Joseph William Novotny.

Joe was born in Wibaux, Montana, the seventh of eight children, and grew up roaming the plains of Eastern Montana.

Joe had recently finished his second year of high school at Sacred Heart Catholic School in Miles City when he enlisted in the military. It was a week after his 17th birthday, nearly a year before he was eligible for the draft.

He would serve in the Navy, spending two years on board the U.S.S. *John R. Craig*. Joe would be honorably discharged in July of 1950, days before the three year anniversary of his enlistment.

Civilian life wouldn't hold Joe for long. He reenlisted, this time in the U.S. Army, in time to deploy to the conflict of the Korean War.

On March 1, 1951, Private First Class Novotny's unit was pinned down by intense enemy machine gun fire. Before long, several of his fellow infantrymen were wounded.

Looking around him, at wounded soldiers, with bullets whizzing around them, Joe made a gut decision.

He was the division litter bearer, and he went to work.

In the ultimate display of courage and selfless sacrifice, Joe abandoned his covered position to run across the bullet-riddled terrain toward some of the wounded American soldiers. Again he found himself pinned down by enemy fire, before he could reach his fellow soldiers.

Several times Joe moved to reach the wounded soldiers in his unit. Several times he risked his own life to reach his peers.

It was only after a bullet struck his knee that he crawled back to cover. He received treatment in the field before being transported to a military hospital. He remained there for about four months before he could travel back to the United States.

Like so many of his fellow soldiers, Joe's injuries followed him home. By his early 50's Joe was relying on VA assisted living facilities as he struggled with his injury and subsequent related illnesses.

Joe passed away February 24, 2005.

It wasn't until after his death that his brother began to look in to Joe's service. While his brother passed away before his search could bear fruit, his niece Kathy took things up.

Today, I want the record to show that this was a man who volunteered to serve his country, not once, but twice, in two branches of the military.

A man who despite heavy enemy fire, risked his own life to get his fellow wounded soldiers. He only stopped once he himself was wounded.

A humble man who didn't speak much about his military service after his discharge, despite the actions that earned him four distinct military honors.

Joseph Novotny is an American hero, and I am honored to present his story and to ensure that it is celebrated in America's history forever.

Mr. President, I yield the floor.

200TH ANNIVERSARY OF MEXICO, MAINE

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, today I wish to commemorate the 200th anniversary of the town of Mexico, ME. Mexico was built with a spirit of determination and resiliency that still guides the community today, and this is a time to celebrate the generations